

'Mefistofele' and 'Il Trovatore' at the Metropolitan

Mme. Alda and Mme. Peralta
Among the Opera Stars
Engaged.

By W. J. HENDERSON.

The unfortunate Dr. Faustus, in search of a moment so beautiful that he would command it to remain was again the subject of consideration by a large assemblage of people in the Metropolitan Opera House yesterday afternoon. It was the Bolto version of the legend that was presented. The members of the cast had been heard in the work in previous performances, the first and second of the season.

The real protagonist of this drama is Mefistofele himself and, therefore, he must lead the procession. Mr. Didur was the impersonator of the fiend. He seemed to be in his best estate and tempted Faustus, smashed the world, summoned all the powers of darkness to dance a remarkable ballet and invaded the classic Sabbath with abundant wickedness of voice and action.

Mme. Alda repeated her pleasing impersonation of Marguerite, a role which in this opera is a mere sketch, but has one effective episode, namely the prison scene. Mme. Easton was the Helen of Troy, who has absolutely nothing to do with the case except to look very beautiful, sing admirably and learn to love Faustus in five minutes. Mr. Gigli was Faustus. He sang the music quite as well as he always does.

Miss Perini as Pontatita and Mme. Howard as Maria were the other ladies in the cast and Mr. Bada was once again praiseworthy as Wagner. Mr. Moranzone conducted.

In the evening "Il Trovatore" was sung, with Mme. Peralta as Leonora, Miss Gordon as Azucena, Mr. Martinelli as Manrico, Mr. Danise as the Count di Luna. Mr. Papl conducted.

HEIFETZ PLAYS BRILLIANTLY.

Violinist Welcomed by Big Audience on His Return.

Jascha Heifetz, the now famous violinist, has been roaming. He has traveled in far countries and the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. He has come home, for it is probable that this country and not Russia will be his domicile for the future. It is not good for violinists out there. It is very good here, and the region of players, Russian and otherwise, grows yearly.

These players need not disturb themselves about the return of Heifetz. It will not affect them. Nevertheless when he plays the public tries to be present. Not all of it can be, so many must be turned away, as they were yesterday, for yesterday the young artist gave his first recital of the season in Carnegie Hall. The house had been sold out before the day dawned. The standing room was crowded. The applause was long and vigorous. The recital was admirable. A sonata by Beethoven was followed by the D minor concerto of Vieuxtemps. Short pieces by Chopin, Schron, Godowsky and Popen (the last arranged by Auer) formed the next group and the list ended with Ernst's "Ottello" fantasy.

It is not essential that a searching examination of the playing of Heifetz be made at this time. Little could be said about it that has not been said before. Perhaps there was more dash, more virtuosic brilliancy, in his performance of the Vieuxtemps music than he usually exhibits, but the next time there may be less. But the unerring technical accuracy, the dazzling swiftness and crispness of the staccato and the flowing beauty of the cantilena excited an admiration which seems new at every hearing of this extraordinary artist.

Young students of the violin can always profit from listening to him if they are intelligent. For one thing, they can easily perceive what a vital factor rhythm is in his playing. It is in all musical performance, yet musicians themselves are prone to fancy that it has little to do with the violin or singing. Heifetz might teach them better.

FOR MUSIC FESTIVAL HERE.

Arranging Event for Upper Manhattan.

With the indorsement of the Harlem Board of Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce of Washington Heights and several other organizations, plans are being made for a festival of music to be held this winter in the upper part of Manhattan. It was announced last night. A special committee, appointed by the Harlem Board of Commerce to make preliminary arrangements, is composed of Albert Behning, chairman; Robert Levers and Francis Wright Clinton.

Similar committees have been appointed by the Chamber of Commerce of Washington Heights, the Upper Manhattan Property Owners Association, the Washington Heights Taxpayers Association and the Harlem Luncheon Association. It being proposed that the committee cooperate in arranging for the proposed festival.

MISS WILLIAMS IN SONGS.

Miss Irene Williams, a soprano who has sung here in light opera and recitals, gave a programme of songs yesterday in Aeolian Hall. Her singing was very warmly received by an audience filling the hall. Her light, charming voice was used with a varying degree of ability. In Hue's "A des Oiseaux" and Rubinstein's "I Feel Thy Breath Blow 'Round Me," both of which songs she repeated, her tones were for the most part clear and her scale even. But in certain old airs and heavier songs her voice often took on a poor quality because of a bad attack. Her color palette was without the deepest tints, but she yet showed much delicacy and taste in using it.

RUSSIAN BARYTONE SINGS.

Joseph Schwarz, a Russian barytone who as a concert singer was heard here several times last winter and is now a member of the Chicago Opera Association, and Eddy Brown, the eminent American violinist, joined forces in a concert last evening at Carnegie Hall. Mr. Schwarz's fine voice and dramatic style were heard to much advantage in operatic airs. Russian songs and other selections, while Mr. Brown's beautiful tone and admirable musicianship gave pleasure in a varied list, including Rimsky-Korsakov's "Hindu Chant." Concerted solo was at the piano for Mr. Schwarz and Joseph Bonime the same for Mr. Brown.

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Kentucky Court Decides Value
of Estate Coming From
Standard Oil Capitalist.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD
LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 17.—In the Circuit Court here today Judge Walter Lincoln held the total estate of the late Mrs. Mary Lily Flagler-Bingham to be worth \$77,963,316.

Of this amount Judge Lincoln ruled the State of Kentucky is entitled to collect inheritance taxes on \$63,444,620. He also held that \$39,992,548 is a fair cash value of the Flagler estate itself, while all other personal property of Mrs. Flagler-Bingham and other holdings of the estate amounted to \$37,970,667 additional.

Mrs. Flagler, who was the widow of Henry M. Flagler, Standard Oil capitalist, was married to Robert W. Bingham of Louisville in November, 1916. She died after a short illness in July, 1917. The State in suing for inheritance tax claims Mrs. Flagler-Bingham was a legal resident of Kentucky through her marriage to a Kentuckian, who lived in this State. Over \$1,000,000 inheritance tax has already been paid.

Mrs. Laurence Lewis of New York was the chief beneficiary under the will of Mrs. Bingham, her aunt, her share being estimated at well above \$60,000,000.

ITALIAN PIANIST PLAYS.

Anthony George Bilotti, a young Italian pianist, who as a first prize pupil of the Naples Conservatory gave a recital here last season, was heard in a program of piano music for the benefit of the Italian war blind last night at Aeolian Hall. His comprehensive list comprised three compositions by Bach, transcribed by Busoni, and difficult works by Beethoven, Chopin, Mendelssohn and Liszt.

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\$875 Black Caracul Coat.....\$595

\$650 Handsome Mole Coats.....\$395

\$450 Natural Raccoon Coats.....\$295

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(36 inch length)

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(36 inch length)